

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 USIA-06 CPR-01 EB-07 AGR-05 AID-05

OPR-02 /036 W

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R 071346Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4959

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BUJUMBURA 0571

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, BY

SUBJECT: FY-76 IV PROGRAM

REF BUJUMBURA A-20 AND STATE 175415

1. AS PART OF FY-76 IV PROGRAM, POST WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PIERRE BIGAYIMPUNZI FOR A FULL FOREIGN LEADER GRANT WITH VIP STATUS. ALTHOUGH HE PLANS TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON NEXT TO LAST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER, HE WOULD USE REST OF THAT MONTH TO WRAP UP NEGOTIATIONS WITH WORLD BANK FOR SOFT LOAN TO BURUNDI COFFEE PRODUCERS AND WOULD BE READY START TOUR ABOUT OCTOBER 1. ALTHOUGH WE WOULD PROPOSE PAY FULL FIRST CLASS COST OF HIS TRAVEL TO AND FROM BUJUMBURA (SINCE IT IS NOT RPT NOT CLEAR THAT BURUNDI GOVERNMENT WOULD FINANCE HIS TRIP TO U.S. JUST FOR LOAN DISCUSSIONS), HIS PER DIEM IN U.S. SHOULD START ONLY AFTER HE HAS CONCLUDED OFFICIAL GRB BUSINESS. HOWEVER, DURING WEEK IN WASHINGTON, HE COULD VISIT OFFICIALS IN DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND AGRICULTURE.

2. BIO SUMMARY: BIGAYIMPUNZI IS MARRIED AND HAS GROWN CHILDREN. AT 52, HE IS THE OLDEST MINISTER (AND HENCE PRESIDES OVER CABINET MEETINGS) AND THE ONLY ONE WHO BELONGS TO AN OLD PRINCELY FAMILY. HOWEVER,
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HE IS WELL CONNECTED WITH THE PRESENTLY RULING, NON-ROYAL,

TUTSI GROUP, AND IS REPORTEDLY AN UNCLE OF PRESIDENT MICOMBERO'S WIFE. HE RECEIVED HIS EDUCATION AT THE BELGIAN-RUN SCHOOL IN BUTARE, RWANDA, SET UP FOR SONS OF CHIEFS, AND THOUGH WITHOUT FORMAL UNIVERSITY TRAINING, HE IS WELL-SPOKEN, WELL-READ, DIGNIFIED, AFFABLE, AND QUITE COSMOPOLITAN. THE LATTER TRAIT WAS UNDOUBTEDLY ADVANCED BY HIS TOURS AS BURUNDI AMBASSADOR IN LONDON, BRUSSELS, AND BONN OFF AND ON DURING THE PERIOD 1965 TO 1972. IN HIS THREE YEARS AS MINISTER, BIGAYIMPUNZI HAS GAINED A GREAT DEAL OF TECHNICAL COMPETENCE, AND HIS AGENCY, AT LEAST AT BUJUMBURA HEADQUARTERS, IS QUITE EFFICIENT BY BURUNDI STANDARDS. BY STAYING OUT OF TUTSI FACTIONAL INTRIGUES, HE HAS GREATLY ENHANCED HIS CHANCES FOR POLITICAL LONGEVITY, AND HE CAN DEVOTE HIMSELF TO THE URGENT PROBLEMS OF THE 95 PERCENT OF HIS COUNTRYMEN WHO ARE PEASANTS. HE SEEMS TO HAVE A GENUINE MOTIVATION TO IMPROVE THEIR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LOT, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR ETHNIC (I.E., HUTU OR TUTSI) AFFILIATION. HOWEVER, SINCE HIS APOLITICAL STANCE ALSO KEEPS HIM OUT OF THE RULING INNER CIRCLE AND REDUCES HIS CLOUT IN IN-FIGHTING OVER DOMESTIC BUDGET ALLOCATIONS, HE IS FORCED TO LOOK FOR EXTERNAL AID TO FINANCE THE GREAT BULK OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN BURUNDI. HE VIEWS HIS TRIP TO THE U.S. AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ASPECTS OF AGRICULTURE IMPORTANT TO BURUNDI AND TO ACQUIRE INSIGHTS THAT MAY BE TRANSFERABLE.

3. BIGAYIMPUNZI VISITED NEW YORK FOR ONE WEEK ABOUT 1971, BUT HE SPEAKS VIRTUALLY NO ENGLISH. HIS FRENCH IS FLUENT, HOWEVER, AND HIS GERMAN LIMITED BUT USEFUL. HE WILL NEED AN INTERPRETER-ESCORT.

4. BIGAYIMPUNZI IS MOST INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE WORLD DAIRY EXPO OCTOBER 1 TO 5 IN MADISON, WISCONSIN (NOT NECESSARILY ALL FIVE DAYS), AND THIS COULD BE STARTING POINT OF HIS TRIP. WHILE IN MADISON, HE COULD BRANCH OUT TO VISITS OF MEDIUM-SIZED DAIRY AND GRAIN PRODUCING FARMS AND SOME RELATIVELY SMALL-SIZED FOOD PROCESSING PLANTS IN AREA. HE ESPECIALLY WANTS TO GET IDEAS ON WHAT TO DO ABOUT BURUNDI'S CHRONIC CATTLE RAISING PROBLEMS. THESE INVOLVE THREE QUARTERS OF A MILLION ANIMALS WHO ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KEPT MAINLY FOR SOCIAL REASONS AND WHO, WHILE ONLY marginally PRODUCTIVE IN TERMS OF MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS, ADD TO FOOD LOSSES AND THREAT OF EROSION BY EXTENSIVE OVERGRAZING.

5. WE WOULD SUGGEST INCLUDING 2 OR 3 DAYS IN CHICAGO FOR BOTH GENERAL CULTURAL AND SPECIFICALLY COMMODITY ORIENTED ENCOUNTERS, AS WELL AS SOME GLIMPSES, IF

NOT TOO LATE IN SEASON, OF MID-WEST CROP HARVESTS, ESPECIALLY SOY BEANS AND GRAINS. VISIT TO FARM MACHINERY MANUFACTURING PLANTS, THOUGH NOT RELEVANT TO BURUNDI, WOULD HELP HIS UNDERSTANDING OF INTERACTION BETWEEN AMERICAN AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY. BIGAYIMPUNZI SHOULD BE EXPOSED BROADLY TO OPERATIONS OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES OF COOPERATIVE AND "4-H" MOVEMENTS. HE SHOULD VISIT AT LEAST ONE MAJOR UNIVERSITY (PERHAPS ILLINOIS) WITH STRONG AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL TO OBSERVE BOTH PRACTICAL TRAINING OF STUDENTS AND LINKS BETWEEN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE FINDINGS BY FARMERS THEMSELVES. GLIMPSES OF AGRICULTURAL TRAINING AT SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL WOULD BE VERY USEFUL.

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6. AFTER IN-DEPTH EXPOSURE OF 10 TO 11 DAYS IN MIDWEST, WE WOULD SUGGEST BIGAYIMPUNZI BE FLOWN TO DENVER-COLORADO SPRINGS AREA FOR ABOUT 4 DAYS TO SEE IRRIGATED FARMING AS WELL AS TOURIST INDUSTRY IN ROCKIES (MOUNTAINOUS BURUNDI IS SEEKING TO ATTRACT TOURISTS TOO). FROM THERE, HE COULD VISIT CENTRAL TEXAS AND OKLAHOMA FOR ANOTHER 3 OR 4 DAYS, WHERE OPEN GRAZING OPERATIONS FOR CATTLE (AS IN BURUNDI) CAN BE FOUND. EAST TEXAS COTTON GROWING AND PROCESSING ALSO HAVE SOME APPLICABILITY HERE. BIGAYIMPUNZI HAS ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SEEING FLORIDA. EN ROUTE THERE FROM TEXAS, HE COULD TAKE DAY OR TWO TO SEE SMALL TOWN IN CAJUN COUNTRY OF LOUISIANA (FOR FRANCOPHONE TOUCH) AND NEW ORLEANS. IN FLORIDA FOR WEEK, BOTH CATTLE RAISING AND VEGETABLE GROWING

FOR NORTHERN MARKETS COULD PROVIDE PARALLELS FOR DEVELOPMENT
POSSIBILITIES IN BURUNDI. HE ALSO WANTS TO SEE SMALL-SCALE
COMMERCIAL FISHING, AS RELEVANT TO EFFORTS HERE ON LAKE
TANGANYIKA. USUAL TOURISTIC ATTRACTIONS IN STATE WOULD
UNDOUBTEDLY THEN BE WELCOME DIVERSION TO CONCLUDE THIS
INTENSIVE TRIP. EXIT FROM COUNTRY SHOULD BE VIA NEW
YORK, WITH PERHAPS DAY OR TWO OF STOPOVER IN ATLANTA
AREA TO LOOK INTO RACE RELATIONS AND SOUTH'S BOOTSTRAP
DEVELOPMENT OF LAST THREE DECADES.
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